Late Filing

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My name is Harold C. LeBlanc. I'm given to understand you're considering de-
regulating telco's requirement to provide ISPs access to the public switched
phone network. Please do not deregulate this! It's essential to allow ISPs
access to the public networks.
Not only does my ISP provide me with services that aren't available from the
telcos, the competition serves to keep prices down. RBOCs like Qwest (whose
strong-arm tactics in DSL marketing have been the basis for numerous legal
actions) cannot be trusted to protect the interests of citizenry; Qwest pursues
profits only, and their plummeting stock prices call into question their ability
to provide basic telephony. Do not hand over the control of internet access to
such organizations.
The duty of protecting the interests of the citizenry lands on the shoulders of
FCC regulators.
Moreover, there is a free-speech dimension to consider. Proprietary cable
networks (such as Roadrunner) have prohibited their subscribers from hosting
their own web servers -- it's technically a violation of the terms of services
to even run an operating system capable of doing so (such as Macintosh OS X).
Hopefully, this will be addressed through future regulation or legislation, but
in the meanwhile broadband dsl is the only avenue for high-speed access to the
internet and the ability to host one's own site on one's own hardware (instead
of renting space from an ISP, whose numbers the proposed deregulation would
dwindle).
Please reject the proposed deregulation. Remember that Americans are citizens as
well as consumers. Competition in the marketplace is a fine thing, and for that
reason alone the FCC should compel telcos to allow ISPs to access the public
network. And America increasingly relies on the internet for information and the
exercise of free speech rights.
Commissioners, preserve ISPs' access to the public telephone networks. Do your
duty.

Sincerely,

Harold C. LeBllanc
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